

Message Text

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43

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 DHA-02

ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 PM-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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O 281105Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 214

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

DIA WASHDC

CINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 6539

DEPARTMENT FOR S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF GR

SUBJ: RUSSIAN JEWISH REFUGEE FAMILY SEEKS ASSISTANCE

1. SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 27 A RUSSIAN JEW NAMED RAIVICH ENTERED THE U.S. ATHENAI AIR BASE FROM THE CIVILIAN SIDE OF THE HELLENIKON AIRPORT. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH BASE OFFICIALS, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT RAIVICH WAS A REFUGEE. HE DID NOT CLAIM TO BE A DEFECTOR NOR DID HE SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR HIMSELF OR HIS FAMILY. HE WAS THEN TURNED OVER TO THE APPROPRIATE GREEK AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE PLACED THE FAMILY IN AN ATHENS HOTEL AND ARE HANDLING THE CASE. THE GREEK PRESS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED THAT THE ENTIRE RAIVICH FAMILY ENTERED THE
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U.S. AIR BASE AND THAT THEY ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM.

END SUMMARY.

2. MR. SEVEL ALEXANDRIVICH RAIVICH SLIPPED PAST THE FENCE SEPARATING THE CILILIAN SECTOR FROM THE U.S. ATHENAI AIR BASE AT HELLENIKON AIRPORT ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 27. WHEN APPROACHED BY A USAF SECURITY PATROL, HE SAID THAT HE WISHED TO SPEAK WITH A JEWISH CHAPLAIN. DURING THE ENSUING INTERROGATION BY OSI, HE REVEALED THAT HE WAS A REFUGEE AND SOUGHT U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GO TO FRANCE, GERMANY OR GREAT BRITAIN.

3. RAIVICH TOLD BASE OFFICIALS THAT HE WAS A RUSSIAN JEW AND THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY (WIFE, MALVINA, AND SON) HAD EMIGRATED IN AUGUST 1972 FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL. APPARENTLY UNABLE TO ADJUST TO LIFE IN ISRAEL, THE FAMILY THEN TRAVELLED TO NEW ZEALAND IN 1973 AND LATER TO AUSTRALIA. RAIVICH HAS A DEGREE IN PHYSICS AND HIS WIFE IN CHEMISTRY, BUT THEY WERE UNABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR TALENTS IN EITHER COUNTRY.

4. EARLIER THIS MONTH, TRAVELLING ON AN ISRAELI LAISSER PASSER DOCUMENT ISSUED IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, RAIVICH AND HIS FAMILY THEN CAME TO GREECE ON AUGUST 12. THE FAMILY HAD NO FUNDS. THEY TOOK UP RESIDENCE AT HELLENIKON AIRPORT. AFTER LANGUISHING IN THE AIRPORT BUILDING WITH HIS FAMILY, RAIVIC DECIDED TO SEEK A MEANS OF GOING TO A COUNTRY WHERE HE AND HIS WIFE COULD FIND JOBS GIVEN THEIR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, HE WANTED AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO GO TO FRANCE, GERMANY OR GREAT BRITIAN, BUT HE DID NOT WANT TO REMAIN IN GREECE.

5. RAIVICH TOLD THE OSI OFFICIALS INTERVIEWING HIM THAT HE WANTED TO SEE A RABBI TO HELP HIM GO TO A COUNTRY WHERE HE COULD PROVIDE A GOOD LIVING FOR HIS FAMILY.

6. RAIVICH NEVER CLAIMED HE WAS A DEFECTOR NOR DID HE ASK FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. WHEN IT WAS DETERMINED BY THE USAF AUTHORITIES THAT HE WAS A REFUGEE HE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TURNED OVER TO THE GREEK IMMIGRATION DIRECTORATE. WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT THE GREEK AUHORITIES TOLD RAIVICH THAT AS A REFUGEE, HE COULD ONLY EMIGRATE TO THE U.S. OR CANADA. REPORTEDLY, RAIVICH THEN SAID HE WISHED TO GO TO THE U.S. THE RAIVICH FAMILY WAS PLACED IN A LOCAL HOTEL AND THE GREEKS ARE CONTINUING TO HANDLE THE CASE AS A REFUGEE CASE. KUBISH

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Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006